REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 have been amended. Claim 8 has been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated July 18, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Verosub, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0205028 (hereinafter Verosub) in view of Yamanaka, U.S. Patent No. 6,853,960 (hereinafter Yamanaka). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims, as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended recites:

A contents processing apparatus comprising:

a contents information storage that ***stores a plurality of contents, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents***, plug-in modules for executing processing of contents, and a plug-in management file for defining executable operative functions of the plug-in modules, the ***contents management file managing operations for respective contents, and the plug-in management file managing operative functions for respective plug-in modules***;

a plug-in setting device that installs plug-in modules corresponding to the contents to be processed;

an operation recognition device that identifies permitted operations relating to execution of processing of the contents to be processed from the contents management file corresponding to the contents to be processed;

an execution instructing device that provides an instruction for executing the processing of the contents;

a plug-in function permission device that permits use of the operative functions defined by said plug-in management file and corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition device, among functions of the plug-in modules installed by said plug-in setting device, ***with respect to the processing of the contents instructed to be executed by said execution instructing device***; and

a contents processing execution device that executes processing of the contents to be processed, according to the functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission device.

The Verosub reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Verosub does not teach "a contents information storage that ***stores a plurality of contents, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents***, plug-in modules for executing processing of contents, and a plug-in management file for defining executable operative functions of the plug-in modules, the ***contents management file managing operations for respective contents, and the plug-in management file managing operative functions for respective plug-in modules.***"

Verosub is directed to transfer, processing, sale, and usage of digital content. *(Verosub, Paragraph 0002)* Verosub discloses that encrypted assets and licenses are downloaded to a client machine 16 using a download manager 162 on the client machine 16. The download manager 162 stores the encrypted assets in a media database. The client machine provides playback of the encrypted asset associated with asset rights 20. *(Verosub, paragraph 0073)*

When a user requests playback of an encrypted asset, a request is sent to an asset rights module 207 to retrieve an encrypted asset key 22 and encrypted usage rights 24 associated with the encrypted asset 18. The asset rights module 207 requests machine-bound asset rights 234 from a secure key locker 26. The asset rights module 207 breaks the machine-bound asset rights 234 into the encrypted asset key 22 and encrypted usage rights 24, and sends the encrypted asset key 22 and encrypted usage rights 24 to the output module 211. The output module 211 decrypts the usage rights 24, and confirms that the playback is allowed by the usage rights 24. If playback 27 is allowed, the output module decrypts the asset key 22 that is associated with the encrypted asset 18, and decrypts the encrypted asset 18 with the asset key, to serve the playback request 212a. *(Verosub, paragraphs 0075-0077)* However, Verosub fails to disclose, teach, or suggest

"a contents information storage that ***stores a plurality of contents, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents***, plug-in modules for executing processing of contents, and a plug-in management file for defining executable operative functions of the plug-in modules, the ***contents management file managing operations for respective contents, and the plug-in management file managing operative functions for respective plug-in modules.***" **(hereinafter the "contents information storage" limitation)**

In addition, unlike the apparatus specified in claim 1, as amended, Verosub does not teach "***an execution instructing device that provides an instruction for executing the processing of the contents,***" **(hereinafter "execution instructing device" limitation)** or "***a plug-in function permission device that permits use of the operative functions defined by said plug-in management file and corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition device***, among functions of the plug-in modules installed by said plug-in setting device, ***with respect to the processing of the contents instructed to be executed by said execution instructing device.***" **(hereinafter "plug-in function permission device" limitation)** Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Verosub.

The Yamanaka reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Verosub. Yamanaka is directed to a communication apparatus using a plug-in system. *(Yamanaka, 1:10-14)* Yamanaka discloses a system including a plug-in module *(Yamanaka, Fig. 7)* Yamanaka also discloses a plug-in judgment unit which determines whether plug-in modules are required when a browser receives content and notifies a plug-in-inside history management unit 7. *(Yamanaka, 14:35-43)* Yamanaka discloses a plug-in download unit which downloads a module file concerning a plug-in module necessary for displaying received contents. *(Yamanaka, 4:40-46)* In other words,

Yamanaka discloses calling a plug-in module required for specific contents based on the contents. However, the combination of the Verosub and Yamanaka does not disclose, teach, or suggest the contents information storage, execution instructing device, or plug-in function permission device limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Verosub in combination with Yamanaka.

Independent claim 7 recites limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 distinguishes over Verosub in combination with Yamanaka for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 3-6 and 8 depend from independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6 and 8 distinguish over Verosub in combination with Yamanaka for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

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Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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